Name: Kim Collazo

School: J.R. Ingram, Jr. Elementary

Biographical Information

Educational Background:

* Lyndon State College, Bachelor of Science in Psychology, 1990
* University of Missouri/St. Louis, Masters in Elementary Education with an Emphasis in Science, December 2008
* National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, attained in 2002

Teaching Experience:

* St. Johnsbury School System, Waterford Elementary School, Waterford, VT, Title One Reading Teacher, 1990-1994
* Lee County Schools, Sanford, NC, Teacher of Special Education (K-5 and 8), Academically Gifted (grades 4 and 5), Technology Facilitator, 6th grade math and science, 4th grade, 5th grade

Other Related Experience:

* Curriculum Writer - LearnNC/Green 'N Growing Project; 2006-07
* Kenan Fellows Program for Curriculum Development; Dr. Friction’s Lair (created an online 3D multi-user video game built to incorporate 5th grade science content)
* 1:1 Netbook Initiative Pilot at the Elementary Level - Lee County Schools 2009 – present
* Ignite Learning – Math Blog Contributor 2010 – present
* Web Wizards 1:1 Web 2.0 Consulting Partner

Family:

* Husband, Alex, Fire Fighter/Inspector with City of Sanford Fire Dept.
* 3 teenaged sons, AJ, Carlos, and Marcos

Teaching Philosophy:

Students need to be given opportunities to create understanding and content for a global audience. Educators must guide them to content and standards mastery, and then allow them to expand their knowledge and creativity using the technology tools available to become innovative, collaborative members of the world they will enter as adults.

Teaching Inspiration:

There are many creative, dedicated educators in my family. I have many aunts, uncles, and grandparents who spent their lives helping children become successful adults. But my father has been my biggest inspiration. He was my middle school science teacher, a principal for several lucky schools in Vermont, Ohio, and North Carolina. And even after retiring, continues to impact the lives of teachers and students through his work in the Education Department at CCCC.

Best Experience of Teaching Career:

The best experience of my teaching career has been implementing the 1:1 netbook initiative at Ingram Elementary in the 4th and 5th grade the past two years. Integrating technology into the curriculum has always been a passion of mine. To finally see my dream of leveling the playing field for all of my students by providing them with a laptop has been fantastic. Watching my students become empowered by creating global content that they then discuss with other children from around the world, and present fearlessly to adults has re-energized me as an educator.

Advice to those considering a career in teaching:

Teaching is a career that takes extreme dedication, passion, and creativity. The rewards of empowering your students, no matter the age, will carry you through each and every day. Build a powerful personal learning network with other educators in your area and around the world, and stay at the cutting edge of new education ideas. Don’t be afraid to step outside the box if you believe it will lead your students to be more successful in their quest for becoming life-long learners!

Organization Memberships:

* Professional Educators of North Carolina
* NC Technology in Education Society
* NC Association for Educational Communications and Technology
* National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
* Kenan Fellows for STEM Curriculum Development